

Attention DME Providers – Immediate Action Required

Nursing Facility Members – Wheelchair Policies

Please review the policy regarding Nursing Facility Members – Wheelchairs, accessories and repairs for personal wheelchairs are included in the per diem for a resident of a nursing facility. However, under limited circumstances, the customization of a wheelchair may be covered outside the per diem with written prior authorization for the member's permanent and full-time use.

For power wheelchairs, the member must be able to demonstrate through a trial period with a similar powered wheelchair, the ability to safely and independently operate the controls. The member must not exhibit any ONE of the significant conditions that limit ability to participate in daily activities including:

- a. Vision
- b. Cognition
- c. Judgment
- d. Physical layout, surfaces and obstacles of the area in which the motorized wheelchair is to be used permit safe operation of the device

In addition, if a customized wheelchair is prescribed for nursing facility members, the physician must include a statement describing the rehabilitation potential and how the customized wheelchair will enhance the prognosis. A written discharge plan stating the planned date of discharge to home or to a non-nursing facility setting must accompany the request for the customized wheelchair.

This is not a new policy.

All parts of a wheelchair must be medically necessary. Wheelchairs should be the most cost effective to meet medical necessity. Repairs to wheelchairs will be approved for parts that are medically necessary. ex. A Bluetooth/voice controlled joystick is not medically necessary unless the individual is not able to physically maneuver. They must also have the cognitive ability to utilize the feature.

Post pay reviews may be completed to determine if the policy for wheelchairs is being followed and that the NH member is able to utilize and operate the wheelchair in their environment. If the member is not appropriate, claims will be voided.

Please make sure to review the DME manual to make sure that you have not missed any changes to policy. It can be found at <https://wymedicaid.telligen.com/document-library/> under manuals.

Wyoming Medicaid

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